

FACULTY SENATE
February 20, 2007

Present: Ebersole, Driever, Stancel, Hood, Yang, Gardner, Durig, Hopkins, Knopp, Honigberg, Johnson, Fieldman, Foxworth, Beard, Rice, J., Rice, C., Gogol, Luppino, Stein, Margolis, Ward-Smith, Adler, Sistrunk, Mardikes, Igwe

Provost

Commencement:

Commencement will occur on Cinco de Mayo and the administration is considering hiring a mariachi band. It will be held in Theis Park.

Undergraduate Council:

The Provost would like this committee to be re-established soon so that it will be available for curriculum oversight when the new budget model is initiated.

New Budget Model:

The Provost wants feedback as soon as possible, particularly on the weighting of the courses and how administrative support is being calculated. He wants transparency of costs in this model. Disbursement of funds is now termed “reassignment” in the new budget model.

Tony Luppino (UBC) stated that we have always known that adjustments will need to be made to the budget model from day one. The Deans will present their financial needs to the Provost and Chancellor on a case by case basis. We can't post the net numbers until the new budget is received. The Provost and the Chancellor will determine what changes will be in the budget to obtain a fair distribution among the units. We need to be responsive to the needs of those units that will never generate a large income but offer programs of excellence.

Marketing will need to be stepped up if we are to increase student credit hours, which is the basis for the new budget model. It should be remembered that the funds we are discussing are the state appropriation which is only 37% of our total budget. Questions came up as to where we should advertise to increase enrollment? Internal and external marketing needs will need to be addressed.

One Senator asked how we are going to deal with units that have long term deficits. This will be a continuing issue and we'll need to explore options. It was noted that there is a perception in the university that some schools which have achieved programs of excellence were able to do so because they got the extra money they needed. The Provost wants to use the transparency of the new budget to explain why it is necessary to give so much support to specific units. This transparency will help us determine why programs cost what they do. This will be an open process. Chancellor Bailey did not support a percentage limit to be placed on units. There will be a buffer built in initially to

help schools that don't generate positive incomes, but Bailey cannot support that for the long term. The next two years will be a critical time for units to investigate how they will deal with funding issues. We won't see full impact in the first or second year of new model. The faculty needs to be outspoken and forceful in the budget discussions because this is going to be a significant change that will affect every unit. The UBC needs to be sensitive to things that certain units would not be able to do. The question was asked, what mechanism protects the units from you from year to year as funding fluctuates? The model calls for explanations by Deans as to why and how funding should be changed year to year.

Admissions Process:

There is much dissatisfaction about how long it takes for student applications to be sent from the Admissions Department to the units, especially at the graduate level. The question was asked as to why do student applications for graduate programs have to go through the admissions office? The best answer was that there's a history there and that aspect has not been brought to anyone's attention. The Provost was asked to carry the information forward to the appropriate administrators. Some units on campus have had positive experiences in receiving applications in a timely manner. Units risk losing students whose applications are not processed in a timely manner. There was discussion on making a special case for the Conservatory to have undergraduate student applications sent directly to the unit.

Missouri Association of Faculty Senates:

Chair, Gary Ebersole commented on the Missouri Omnibus bill which includes a considerably changed MOHELA package. Everything was put into one basket, including state scholarship funds and the strengthening the Department of Education's funding, which had 75% of its funding cut two years ago. The bill gives the Commissioner much more power. The bill has a component to cap tuition at the Midwest Urban Index, which is not a good measure for us. The cap on tuition does not have any guarantee with it that state support will increase if we can't increase tuition. Chair Ebersole's thoughts on the matter are that if tuition caps are imposed without any guarantees of continued state support to at least keep up with inflation and costs that we cannot control (energy, medical, etc.), then we would find ourselves in the same situation that Colorado found itself in a few years ago when it enacted its Tax Payers' Bill of Rights (TABOR). The bill now has been watered down significantly. We may not see any state capital appropriations projects within the next two years. If the use of MOHELA funds is challenged legally (as it most likely will be) and found to be illegal, then none of the bill will become law. The best that can be said is that we hope to get the same appropriation as last year. The bill does have a mandate for accountability but it's very vague. In response to the Omnibus bill, each campus Faculty Senate has issued a one sentence statement to forward to the Chair of the Board of Curators. The statements speak to the need for continued support of higher education and an adherence to the Missouri Constitution as far as governance of the university and the issue of academic freedom. President Floyd said that he was willing to sign a statement saying that the university would not conduct embryonic stem cell research, but that offer was not accepted. This suggests that some in the legislature would rather have the education bill fail than offer

support for any type of stem cell research, regardless of the amendment passed by Missouri voters. Governor Blunt was depending on the success of the MOHELA package as a means to support his political future, but it has backfired. The earliest the bill could come out of committee is later this week.

Miscellaneous:

Two UMKC faculty members will attend the AAUP conference in St. Louis. The Faculty Senate budget will subsidize their travel. Fred Lee and Stuart MacInich will be representing us at the conference.

Mary Lou Hines has said that 8% of the operating budget goes towards security issues. She will be invited to Senate later this spring to speak about IT issues on our campus.

Tony Luppino presented and Ebersole read a “Sense of the Senate Resolution” honoring Professor Ed Hood for his service to the university. Ed is retiring from his full-time appointment in March of this year, but will be on campus on a part-time basis. The resolution was approved by acclamation.

Gary Ebersole will ask Dr. Ron MacQuarrie, Admissions staff, and the ISOA director to speak to the Senate at the next meeting. We need to explore whether we can have a division of the processes for undergraduate and graduate student applications so that graduate applications go to the academic units first.

IRB:

There was discussion about Professor Drew Bergerson’s proposal on charges for the IRB Committee. In the fall the Senate will hold an election for faculty representatives to serve on the IRB. The Senate felt it was preferable to allow those elected to have discussions about the charge rather than have the Senate adopt the entire set of requirements that were presented. We can send out a general charge with the election slate in the spring. Those elected will begin their terms in the fall. Chair Ebersole said that we can have John Baumann come at a later time and report to the Senate on the changes that have already been instituted.

One IRB issue is that there are no procedures in place for an appeals process. The processes of the IRB need to be efficient, non-intrusive and yet be able to follow the federal guidelines. There was concern expressed as to whether the appropriate staff is doing general reviews and investigating complaints about protocol and ethics. The Senate feels that it should decide what groups and representatives should be on the IRB Committee. We need to be involved since this is a shared governance issue and the decisions should be made by the faculty, along with the Provost.

General Faculty Meeting:

The Senate discussed whether we should conduct one or two general faculty meetings per year. A suggestion was made that general faculty meetings should be rotated between Hospital Hill and the Volker campus. The new budget model would be one point of discussion. Chancellor Bailey intends to discuss it at a Town Hall meeting as well. We

could also talk about IRB issues and the Governor's proposed 4% addition to the budget. Senator Chris Rice will coordinate a meeting place for this year's general meeting and it will be on Hospital Hill.